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COSFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

WEST SUFFOLK.

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1955.

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of
Cosford in the County of West Suffolk for the year ending
31st December, 1955.

Public Health Offices,
8, Whiting Street,
Bury St. Edmunds.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Cosford.

October 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your favourable consideration my
Twentieth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, being that for the
year ended 31st December, 1955.

I would acknowledge my indebtedness to my colleagues, Mr. Durrant,
Clerk of the Council, Mr. Hine, Sanitary Inspector, and his colleague
Mr. Panks, for their assistance in compiling this report.
My thanks are also due to Dr. D. A. McCracken, County Medical Officer of
Health, West Suffolk, for his co-operation and counsel throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) Medical. One part-time Medical Officer of Health,

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H. (Durham),
Cert.Mental Deficiency and Allied Subjects (London),
appointed 1st February, 1937.

This Officer does not engage in private practice but holds in addition the
following appoints:-

Medical Officer of Health, Newmarket U.D.C. } Appointed 1st July, 1936.
Mildenhall R.D.C. }
Thingoe R.D.C. }
Thedwastre R.D.C. Appointed 1st July, 1938.

(b) Others. One Sanitary Inspector,

G. H. HINE, M.I.MUNE, M.S.I.A., Meat & Other Foods
Certificate R.S.I.
Appointed 1st May, 1947.

Mr. Hine is also Surveyor to the Council.

One Additional Sanitary Inspector,

E. A. PANKS, M.S.I.A., Meat & Other Foods
Certificate R.S.I., M.Inst. Housing.
Appointed 17th July, 1947.

Public Health Committee.

Col. Sir Charles Rowley, Bart. - Chairman.

Mr. C. A. Alderton.
Miss I. O. C. Baldry.
Mr. H. Boyle.
Revd. H. C. Butler.
Lt.Gen.Sir Harold Carrington.
Mr. T. C. Dawson.

Mr. F. D. Gales.
Mr. H. P. Knott.
Mr. F. G. W. Letts.
Dr. H. A. Mahony.
Mr. A. Nicholson.
Mr. F. E. Woodgate.

MR. J. E. LADBROOK, J.P., CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL.
MRS. C. N. McGEORGE, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL.
MR. C. A. DURRANT, CLERK OF THE COUNCIL.

SECTION A.
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. <u>GENERAL STATISTICS.</u>	Area	..	..	..	48,530 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population.	1955.	(1954)	(1953)		
	9,470	(9,470)	(9,416)		
Number of inhabited houses at end of year according to Rate Book	3,364	(3,329)	(3,352)		
Rateable Value	£36,495	(£36,495)	(£35,130)		
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£150	(£149)	(£146)		

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	<u>Total.</u>			<u>Male.</u>			<u>Female.</u>		
	1955	(1954)	(1953)	1955	(1954)	(1953)	1955	(1954)	(1953)
<u>Live Births.</u>									
Legitimate.	125	(127)	(151)	65	(75)	(73)	60	(52)	(78)
Illegitimate.	6	(7)	(10)	2	(3)	(7)	4	(4)	(3)
<u>Stillbirths.</u>									
Legitimate.	3	(4)	(2)	Nil	(3)	(Nil)	3	(1)	(2)
Illegitimate.	Nil	(Nil)	(Nil)	Nil	(Nil)	(Nil)	Nil	(Nil)	(Nil)
<u>Deaths.</u>	144	(121)	(139)	74	(66)	(78)	70	(55)	(61)
<u>Deaths under One Year.</u>	8	(8)	(2)	6	(4)	(Nil)	2	(4)	(2)

	<u>Cosford.</u>			<u>England & Wales.</u>		
	1955	(1954)	(1953)	1955	(1954)	(1953)
<u>Birth Rate.</u> (Live births per 1000 population).	13.8	(14.1)	(17.1)	15.0	(15.2)	(15.5)
<u>Comparability Factor, Births.</u>	1.15	(1.15)	(1.19)			
<u>Corrected Birth Rate.</u>	15.9	(16.3)	(20.3)			
<u>Stillbirth Rate</u> per 1000 total (live and still) births.	22.4	(29.0)	(12.3)	23.1	(24.0)	(22.4)
<u>Death Rate</u> per 1000 resident population.	15.2	(12.8)	(14.8)	11.7	(11.3)	(11.4)
<u>Comparability Factor, Deaths.</u>	0.75	(0.75)	(0.73)			
<u>Corrected Death Rate.</u>	11.4	(9.6)	(10.8)			
<u>Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.</u>						
All infants per 1000 live births.	61.1	(59.7)	(12.4)	24.9	(25.5)	(26.8)
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate births.	64.0	(63.0)	(13.2)			
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate births.	Nil	(nil)	(Nil)			

The eight deaths of infants under one year of age were all of legitimate children - all of these deaths were in the first four weeks of life:-

Male, 10 hours. Atelectasis.
Male, 10 hours. Premature Birth.
Male, 14 hours. Premature Birth.
Male, 15 hours. Cerebral Haemorrhage, Tentorial tear, Prematurity.
Male, 3 days. Atelectasis.
Male, 3 weeks. Subarachnoid haemorrhage.
Female, 1 day. Internal Hydrocephalus.
Female, 3 weeks. Obstructive Jaundice, Gastro-Enteritis.

The Rateable Value and Penny Rate Product quoted above were of course based on the old assessments. The new assessments in use in April 1956 have produced a Rateable Value of £67,585 and a Penny Rate Product of £273. Thus the Rateable Value has been increased 85% and the Penny Rate Product 82%.

The following table gives the causes and the number of deaths occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar General's figures.

As in last year's report the deaths have been classified to conform with implementation of the World Health Organisation Nomenclature Regulations, 1948 - these regulations being set out on pages 371-376 of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

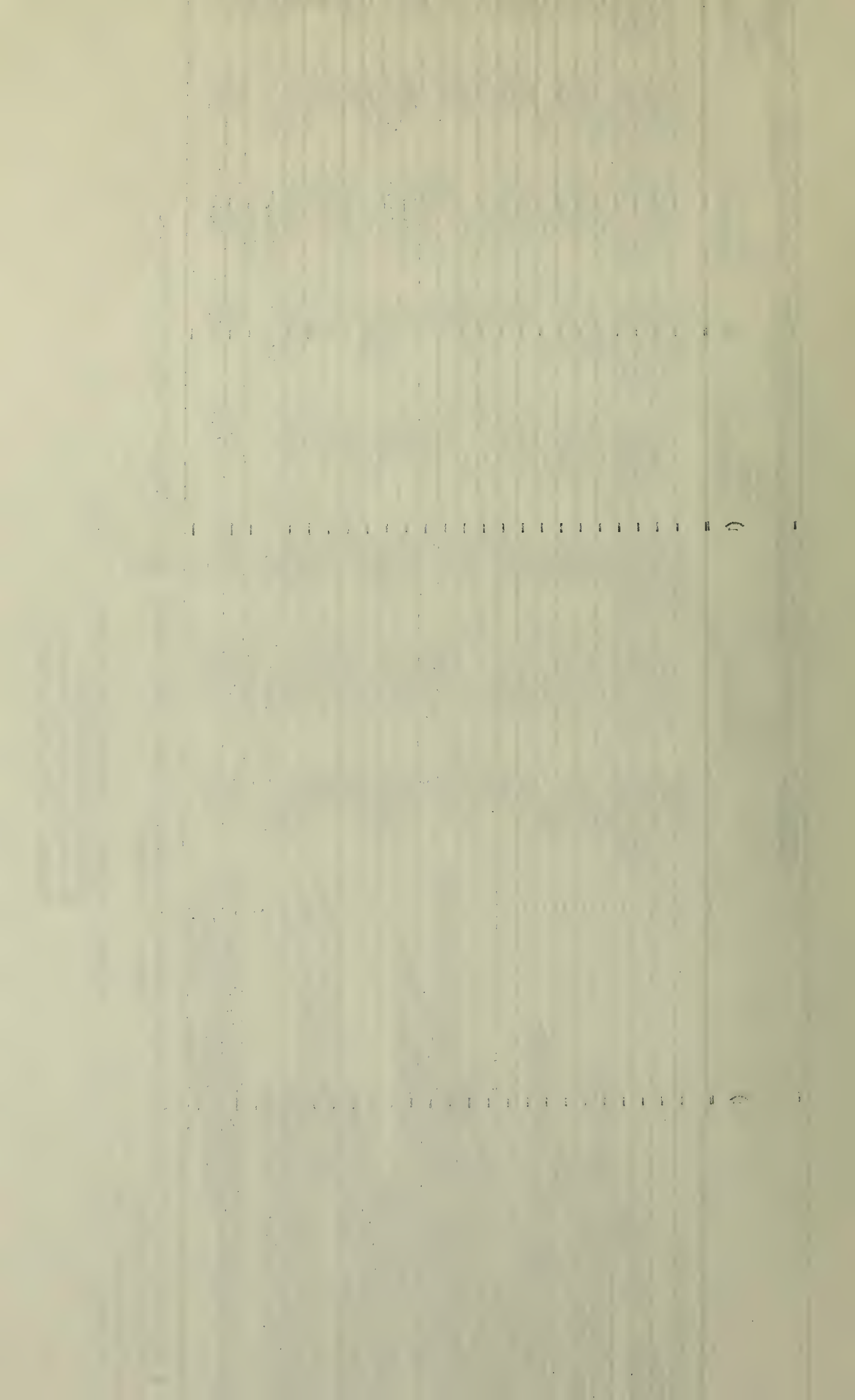
CAUSES OF DEATH.		Deaths at the sub-joined ages of "RESIDENTS" whether occurring in or beyond the District.																	
M = Males. F = Females.		Under 1 year.		1 to 4 years.		5 to 14 years.		15 to 24 years.		25 to 44 years.		45 to 64 years.		65 to 74 years.		75 & over.		TOTAL=Registrar General's figures.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
10.	Malignant neoplasm, Stomach.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	3	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	5	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	3	-	1	1	-	-	6	4
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	5	7	-	-	5	17
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	5	1	8	1	-	-	15	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
20.	Other heart disease.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	6	7	-	-	9	8
21.	Other circulatory disease.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	3
22.	Influenza.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	1
23.	Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	2	7	-	-	4	10
24.	Bronchitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	3	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
26.	Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
28.	Nephritis & Nephrosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
31.	Congenital malform- ation.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
32.	Other defined & ill- defined diseases.	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	-	-	9	6
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
34.	All other accidents.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
35.	Suicide.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
		6	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	14	-	21	-	30	-	-	-	74	-
		-	2	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	13	-	14	-	36	-	-	-	70

	Rateable Value.	Penny Rate Product.	No. of Inhabited Houses.	Registrar-General's Estimate Population.	Total Deaths.	Deaths under One Year.		Births.		Stillbirths.	
						Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.
1936.	£23,210	£105	2,707	9,091	126	4	Nil	131	9	3	Nil
1937.	£23,605	£107	2,923	8,912	145	4	Nil	105	4	5	1
1938.	£24,701	£112	2,942	8,941	132	4	Nil	114	4	5	Nil
1939.	£25,175	£113	2,975	9,230	156	5	Nil	128	3	1	Nil
1940.	£25,480	£116	3,107	9,956	147	6	Nil	125	2	2	1
1941.	£25,423	£116	3,102	10,790	160	5	Nil	158	2	6	Nil
1942.	£25,539	£120	3,098	9,748	126	6	Nil	143	6	6	Nil
1943.	£33,218	£124	3,090	9,441	129	4	Nil	148	4	4	1
1944.	£26,240	£120	3,096	7,467	145	5	Nil	159	15	5	Nil
1945.	£26,521	£116	3,098	9,014	126	2	2	142	24	1	Nil
DECADE TOTALS.	-	-	-	-	1,392	45	2	1,353	73	38	3
DECADE ANNUAL AVERAGE.	£25,911	£115	3,014	9,459	139	4.5	0.2	135	7.3	3.8	0.3
1946.	£26,749	£116	3,111	9,065	136	4	Nil	156	8	4	Nil
1947.	£28,239	£126	3,163	9,121	120	1	Nil	199	11	4	1
1948.	£28,471	£129	3,244	9,244	136	1	1	167	11	6	Nil
1949.	£30,534	£161	3,301	9,410	138	5	Nil	159	7	5	Nil
1950.	£32,359	£140	3,450	9,690	136	2	2	132	13	3	Nil
1951.	£33,444	£144	3,221	9,505	140	3	Nil	149	3	Nil	Nil
1952.	£33,787	£145	3,312	9,443	124	3	Nil	135	3	3	Nil
1953.	£35,130	£146	3,352	9,416	139	2	Nil	151	10	2	Nil
1954.	£36,495	£149	3,329	9,470	121	8	Nil	127	7	4	Nil
1955.	£36,495	£150	3,364	9,470	144	8	Nil	125	6	3	Nil
DECADE TOTALS.	-	-	-	-	1,334	37	3	1,500	81	34	1
DECADE ANNUAL AVERAGE.	£32,170	£141	3,285	9,383	133	3.7	0.3	150	8.1	3.4	0.1
1946 to 1955.	Compare with April 1956.	£67,585	£273								

	COSFORD. (Equivalent for 1000 population)	MILDENHALL. (Equivalent for 1000 population)	THEDWASTRE. (Equivalent for 1000 population)	THINGOE. (Equivalent for 1000 population)
Population 1955.	9,470	19,680	8,880	19,260
Acres.	48,630	86,759	34,126	106,500
Rateable Value 1955.	£36,495	£77,882	£33,173	£73,376
" 1956.	£67,585	£117,966	£54,373	£105,276
% Increase Rateable Value 1956.	85%	51%	64%	43%
Penny Rate Product 1955.	£150	£303	£131	£288
" 1956.	£272	£490	£210	£410
% Increase Penny Rate Product 1956.	82%	62%	60%	42%
Live Births 1955.	131	352	156	284
Deaths 1955.	144	179	115	178
Deaths under 1 year 1955.	8	8	4	6
Infantile Mortality Rate 1955.	61.1	22.1	25.6	21.1
Infectious Diseases (Excluding Tuberculosis) 1955	232	156	65	222
New Cases Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1955.	4	3	2	3
" Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1955.	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Inhabited Houses 1955.	3,364	4,516	2,813	5,584
Acres per Inhabited House.	14.4	19.2	12.1	19.1
Council Houses built in 1955.	29	62	13	85
" " post-war. To end of 1955.	342	479	305	695
Total Pre-war & Post-war Council Houses. do.	578	751	640	1,099
Houses with piped Water Supply. do.	2,788	4,031	1,167	3,177
% with piped water into house. do.	75% + 8% Stand-piped.	89%	41% + 9% Stand-piped.	56% + 1% Stand-piped.
Houses connected to Village Sewerage Schemes, do.	810	699	Nil	573
" " Smaller Sewerage Schemes, do. e.g. Council Estates.	215	102	Nil	381

£ Cosford has 3 Village Sewerage Schemes (Bildeston, Boxford, Lavenham) and 12 Smaller Sewerage Schemes.	"	"
£ Mildenhall has 1 " Scheme	"	"
£ Thedwastre " no " "	"	"
£ Thingoe " 9 " "	"	"

Schemes (Bardwell, Barningham, Barrow, Chedburgh, Fornham All Saints, Hengrave, Ixworth, Rougham & Gt. Whelnetnam)



SECTION B.
GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service provides the District with an excellent bacteriological service - for some parts of the District it is more convenient to use the Ipswich Laboratory, under the directorship of Dr. P. Martin, for the rest of the District the Laboratory at Cambridge, under the directorship of Dr. R. M. Fry, is preferable. Both Dr. Martin and Dr. Fry have proved most ready to discuss and advise on any epidemiological or similar problem.

Chemical analyses are carried out by Dr. S. Greenburgh, Public Analyst, Tenison Road, Cambridge, who also gives an efficient and helpful service.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. These services since July 1953 have been provided directly by the County Council under the direction of Dr. D. A. McCracken, the County Medical Officer of Health.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. The West Suffolk County Council District Nurse Midwives carry out these duties.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. These are not the responsibility of the Rural District Council.

(e) HOSPITALS. The use of hospitals by Cosford residents is indicated by the following information with regard to live births and deaths:-

67 (51%) of the 131 live births took place at the resident's home in our District.

Of the 144 deaths, 92 (64%) occurred at the resident's own home in the Cosford District. Of the remaining 52, there were 50 in hospitals, as under:-

5	Bury St. Edmunds, (St. Mary's Hospital)
5	" " " (West Suffolk Hospital)
5	Ipswich, (Borough General Hospital)
12	" , (East Suffolk Hospital)
1	Sudbury, (St. Leonard's Hospital)
20	" , (Walnuttree Hospital)
1	Newmarket (General Hospital)
1	Cambridge (Addenbrooke's Hospital)

SECTION C.
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. Progress with the provision of a Comprehensive Scheme, to replace Council owned village and council house site schemes throughout the District, as also to bring water to parishes not previously supplied, had progressed so far during 1955 that the Nedging water tower was completed in October, work on the Semer Pumping Station commenced on 6th June and the main-laying programme of 75 miles was virtually completed by the end of the year.

The parishes of Aldham, Groton and Milden, (which were, prior to 1955, the only parishes without a piped supply) were now included, so that every parish has a piped water supply.

The bore at the Council house site at Edwardstone and the two small public bores and tanks at Lindsey and Whatfield had been replaced by the Comprehensive Scheme - indeed, the only minor installations still in use were the Boxford head works and the Elmsett Council house site bore and these are already linked to the Comprehensive Scheme, but are producing water until the Semer Pumping Station becomes operative.

Until this Semer Pumping Station can be put into use the Comprehensive Scheme has been supplied with water from the Joint Comprehensive Scheme of Thingoe and Thedwastre. From the Joint Scheme a total of 63,963,000 gallons was supplied to Cosford during 1955, part of which was passed on to Gipping R.D.C.

Water Supplied from Thingoe and Thedwastre Comprehensive Scheme during 1955.

Cosford R.D.C.	63,963,000	gallons.
Thingoe R.D.C.	96,819,000	"
Thedwastre R.D.C.	27,344,000	"
Melford R.D.C.	29,278,000	"
Clare R.D.C.	8,381,000	"
	<u>225,785,000</u>	"

* Estimated reading, meter out of order.

Gallons of Water Supplied Each Month to Cosford during 1955.

January	5,077,000	gallons
February	4,266,000	"
March	5,402,000	"
April	6,440,000	"
May	4,638,000	"
June	4,689,000	"
July	5,740,000	"
August	* 5,740,000	"
September	5,800,000	"
October	* 4,694,000	"
November	5,015,000	"
December	6,462,000	"
	<u>63,963,000</u>	"

The completion of the Comprehensive Scheme will minimise the breakdowns likely to occur - in 1955 the following interruptions to the supply took place, although in no case was any part of the District without water for any length of time.

In January the Edwardstone works was out of action for two days owing to an electrical fault. Two further small breakdowns occurred at the Edwardstone works and this plant was taken out of service permanently.

On another occasion, owing to the failure of the public electric supply, the works at Bradfield in the Thingoe Rural District was unable to operate, with the result that some houses in the northern portion of Cosford were without water for a few hours.

In February, it was necessary to cut off the bulk supply of water from Thingoe in order to install a waste recording meter, but very little inconvenience was caused in the few hours this took to fix.

During June it was necessary to carry out repairs at the Boxford works; while this was being done the parish was supplied from the Thingoe Rural District source.

The table on page 8 indicates the number of houses in the District supplied with water by the end of 1955. It will be noted that the routes of the water mains could allow 3,004 (89%) houses out of a total of 3,364 houses in the District to be supplied. By the end of 1955 there were 2,532 houses (75%) with a piped supply into the house and 256 (8%) were obtaining water from a standpipe within 200 feet. 2,788 (83%) are therefore making use of the water supply and only 216 (6%) of the total houses in the District are along the route and not as yet making use of the water.

Chemical Analyses from pumping stations in the Thingoe area were carried out and gave the following results:-

Site.	Bact.	Chemical Analysis (Parts per 100,000)					
		Cl ₂	O ₂	Nitrate.	Nitrite.	Hardness.	pH
Ixworth.	Satis.	4.6	0.0643	Absent.	Absent.	28.6	7.2
Risby.	Satis.	2.20	0.0365	0.54	Absent.	26.0	7.2
Rushbrooke.	Satis.	2.25	0.0329	0.10	Absent.	27.9	7.1

Bacteriological water samples taken in the Cosford area totalled 74 and gave the following results:-

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
From Public Mains	50	3
From Private Supplies	8	13

The 3 unsatisfactory samples from public supplies were taken from a source supplied by a small works, the use of which has since been abandoned. Where possible the private houses from which an unsatisfactory sample was obtained were connected to the mains supply - in other cases suitable precautions were advised.

No carting of water was necessary during the year.

In the few cases where bore well water from the Comprehensive Scheme is not readily available and a new baby is arriving, arrangements are made to test the well supply of the house, prior to the making up of the infants feeds (when breast feeding is not possible), for the presence of nitrates in order to avoid the danger of Methaemoglobinaemia.

Parish.	TOTAL HOUSES.		From Stand-Pipe Within 200 ft.	HOUSES IN PARISH WITH A PIPED WATER SUPPLY INTO THE HOUSE BY THE END OF THE YEAR.							Prior to 1950.	% into House (Figures in brackets = Standpipied).	Houses on Route of Mains not yet using water.	Houses not on route of Water Mains.	Additional metered supplies for business purposes.
	In Parish	On Route of Water Mains		1955.	1954.	1953.	1952.	1951.	1950.						
Aldham.	54	36	1	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	54% (2%)	6	18	5	
Brent Eleigh.	59	46	-	40	33	33	-	-	-	-	68%	6	13	1	
Brettenham.	103	98	-	98	87	86	75	75	75	75	95%	Nil	5	14	
Bildeston.	246	245	8	231	220	194	148	131	117	109	94% (3%)	6	1	11	
Boxford.	277	259	17	238	232	222	190	177	155	135	83% (7%)	4	18	17	
Cockfield.	241	207	-	185	172	108	54	18	18	-	77%	22	34	23	
Chelsworth.	56	53	-	29	16	13	-	-	-	-	52%	24	3	5	
Edwardstone.	119	101	18	79	43	40	32	32	31	12	67% (15%)	4	18	5	
Elmsett.	115	94	7	73	32	32	26	18	17	17	64% (6%)	14	21	5	
Groton.	77	40	4	32	1	1	1	-	-	-	42% (5%)	4	37	5	
Hitcham.	217	189	44	143	113	106	92	91	91	91	67% (20%)	2	28	19	
Kersey.	156	149	4	136	102	24	20	20	20	19	88% (3%)	9	7	16	
Kettlebaston.	29	21	-	20	19	19	-	-	-	-	69%	1	8	4	
Lavenham.	552	535	80	446	434	426	364	301	271	241	83% (11%)	9	17	27	
Layham.	132	99	-	77	64	8	8	-	-	-	59%	22	33	11	
Lindsey.	67	63	7	49	10	10	10	10	10	9	74% (10%)	7	4	7	
Milden.	50	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78%	5	6	7	
Monks Eleigh.	156	130	15	95	64	56	8	8	8	-	61% (10%)	20	26	6	
Nedging with Naughton.	101	96	25	66	59	56	49	49	48	48	66% (25%)	5	5	17	
Polstead.	197	176	6	145	118	32	27	27	27	19	71% (3%)	25	21	16	
Preston.	77	64	-	64	48	45	1	-	-	-	83%	-	13	10	
Semer.	56	43	-	30	14	-	-	-	-	-	54%	13	13	5	
Thorpe Morieux.	95	95	-	92	48	40	4	4	-	-	97%	3	-	14	
Wattisham.	42	42	-	40	32	32	-	-	-	-	96%	2	-	6	
Whatfield.	90	79	20	56	45	44	44	42	41	41	62% (22%)	3	11	6	
	3,364	3,004 (89%)	256	2,532 (75%)	2,006	1,627	1,153	1,003	929	816	75% (8%)	216 (6%)	360 (11%)	262	

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The three village sewerage schemes, serving Bildeston, Lavenham and Boxford with part of Edwardstone, were planned so that they could serve a large proportion of the houses in these villages. This, of course, is dependent on owners having their houses connected to the scheme. As an inducement to this end, the Council, until the various closing dates, offered a grant of £15 or half the cost (if lower) of each conversion to W.C. at any house, factory, shop, etc.

There has been a most gratifying response as no less than 85% of the houses on the route of the sewers had been connected by the end of the year (also a few houses on the route had satisfactory drainage to private cesspools) and 81% of the other premises on the route were connected, as will appear from the following table:-

Sewage Connections Village Schemes as at 31.12.55.

Parish.	Total Houses in Parish.	Houses on route of sewers.	Houses on Sewer. %	Percentage on route of sewer connected.	Other Premises on route connected.
Bildeston.	246	242 (98%)	223 (91%)	92%	14 of 15.
Boxford (with part Edwardstone).	295	224 (76%)	176 (60%)	79%	11 of 15
Lavenham.	552	491 (89%)	411 (74%)	84%	19 of 24
	1,093	957 (88%)	810 (74%)	85%	44 of 54

In addition to the three village schemes the Council has also provided sewerage systems to groups of Council houses (and occasionally adjacent properties) - the total number of houses in the District which had modern sewerage facilities provided by the Council by the end of 1955 was as follows:-

Parish.	Total Houses in Parish.	Houses served by Sewers at 31.12.55. Number.	%	CONNECTED DURING					Prior to 1951.
				1955.	1954.	1953.	1952.	1951.	
Brettenham.	103	8	8%	-	-	-	-	-	8
Bildeston.	246	223	91%	41	50	78	54	-	-
Boxford.	277	165	60%	14	16	73	62	-	-
Cockfield.	241	44	18%	-	6	-	-	-	38
Edwardstone. X	119	27	23%	-	1	8	5	12	1
Elmsett.	115	20	18%	-	-	-	-	-	20
Hitcham.	217	18	8%	-	-	-	-	-	18
Kersey.	156	14	9%	4	-	4	-	-	6
Lavenham.	552	411	74%	23	52	37	89	202	8
Layham.	132	18	14%	4	4	4	-	-	6
Milden.	50	4	8%	3	1	-	-	-	-
Monks Eleigh.	156	8	5%	-	-	-	-	-	8
Polstead.	197	23	12%	-	4	-	4	-	15
Thorpe Morieux.	95	8	8%	-	-	-	-	8	-
Whatfield.	90	34	38%	-	13	-	-	-	21
	2,746	1,025	37%	89	147	204	214	222	149

X 11 houses connected to Boxford Scheme.

1,025 houses is 30% of the 3,374 total number of houses in the District. 89 houses were connected for the first time in 1955.

No major alterations or extensions to sewerage and sewage disposal works were carried out during 1955.

The maintenance of the major sewage disposal works at Bildeston, Boxford and Lavenham and the several small plants at the Council's Housing Sites was carried out, under the direction of the Surveyor, by the Council's Sewage Works Attendant who is provided with a van to convey him and his tools to the various sites. As recorded overleaf, it became necessary to provide extra assistance for him through the part-time service of a member of the cesspool emptying crew.

At intervals throughout the year sewage effluent samples were submitted for analysis by the Essex River Board Pollution Prevention and Fisheries Department from the three village works, and from two of the housing site plants, with the following results:-

Parish.	Total.	Satisfactory.	Doubtful.	Unsatisfactory.
Bildeston.	6	2	4	-
Boxford.	6	2	4	-
Cockfield.	1	-	-	1
Hitcham.	1	-	-	1
Lavenham.	6	2	4	-

The 12 samples in column 3 above slightly exceeded the 30 parts per million of suspended matter, (which is the Royal Commission Standard expected to be obtained at a works with adequate whole-time attendance), possibly due to the fact that the flow for which the works are designed had only just been reached. To improve the effluent, before discharge into the streams, additional help was provided to the Sewage Works Attendant by allowing the part-time services of a member of the cesspool emptying crew.

The housing sites sewage disposal works functioned reasonably satisfactorily throughout the year. Plans are being prepared to secure improvements to the works at Hitcham, Layham and Polstead. De-sludging of these minor works is carried out with the Council's cesspool emptier.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. Each year more and more properties are connected to the sewerage schemes serving Lavenham, Bildeston and Boxford, thus curtailing the pollution of the rivers Brett and Box. There are still, however, unsewered parishes, as for example, Monks Eleigh and Kersey, which can contaminate rivers and streams. Messrs. Lemon & Blizzard, the Council's Consulting Engineers, prepared a preliminary report on the possibilities of sewerage Kersey, Monks Eleigh and Chelsworth which was considered by the Council in August 1955.

In respect of Kersey and Monks Eleigh, the Council instructed the Consulting Engineers to prepare detailed reports to be submitted to the Ministry to obtain approval for grant aid under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, and to design the Monks Eleigh scheme for extension to Chelsworth at a future date.

In view of the present national financial stringencies, these schemes, which would prevent river pollution, will be considerably delayed.

Improvements and additions to the Housing Site Sewage Disposal Works at Cockfield and Whatfield have also improved the quality of the effluent discharged to ditches.

Further works are in hand at Layham and Polstead to give a better quality effluent discharged from these housing site Sewage Disposal Works.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. It has been recorded, on page 9, that 1,025 (30%) of the 3,374 houses in the District have sewerage facilities provided from the Council's village or housing site schemes. In addition many houses have W.C.'s. drained to satisfactory private cesspools - a number which has increased consequent on the provision of a piped water supply to every village throughout the District.

Helped by the Council offer of grant, 78 earth closets were converted into water closets during 1955 in the parishes of Bildeston, Boxford and Lavenham - usually sinks were also added and occasionally baths. Some owners, however, allowed the Closing Date to pass and, therefore, it was necessary by Statutory Notices to require provision of W.C.'s. in respect of 22 dwellings in Lavenham - 16 of these had been provided by the end of the year.

There are still many parishes in which a sewerage system is not available so in addition to continuing a collection of nightsoil in those parts of the parishes of Bildeston, Boxford and Lavenham where it was still required, night soil collection was carried out in the parishes of Brettenham, Groton, Kersey, Monks Eleigh and Whatfield.

Despite this amount of service, which compares very favourably with that in other Districts, several requests were made for extension of this service.

The Council's Dennis Cesspool Emptier is, however, working at its maximum, for, in addition to this night soil collection, it is employed in emptying cesspools - the numbers being emptied are indicated in the following table:-

CESSPOOLS EMPTIED.

	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.
Private cesspools within Cosford R.D.	135	122	159	161	180
Private Cesspools outside Cosford R.D.	15	13	7	12	9
Cosford R.D. Housing Sites Cesspools.	84	87	88	153	202
	<u>234</u>	<u>222</u>	<u>254</u>	<u>326</u>	<u>391</u>

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING. The "kerbside" system of refuse collection was continued throughout the year. The Council authorised over-time working in order that an improved service could be given in the parishes of Cockfield, Kersey, Nedging-with-Naughton, Wattisham, Edwardstone and Groton. The system now operating provides for a weekly collection in the more built-up areas of Bildeston, Boxford and Lavenham, a fortnightly collection in the parishes of Aldham, Brent Eleigh, Brettenham, Cockfield, Edwardstone, Groton, Hitcham, Kersey, Layham, Monks Eleigh, Nedging-with-Naughton, Elmsett, Polstead and Wattisham, and a monthly collection in the remaining 8 parishes, Chelsworth, Kettlebaston, Lindsey, Milden, Preston, Semer, Thorpe Morieux, Whatfield.

Residents place more and more refuse out for collection and it becomes increasingly difficult to clear without the men working excessive overtime.

Refuse tips are in use at Boxford, Monks Eleigh and Semer. Tipping is not carried out during the summer at Monks Eleigh because of the proximity of cottages nearby.

The use of 3 tips economises in petrol and running expenses. The running time saved has allowed, along with overtime working, the improvements in collection previously mentioned. The use of 3 tips, however, increases the difficulty of keeping them all neat and tidy compared with concentrating on one tip only.

All the tips are treated regularly to control fly and rodent infestations.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. The following table, recording the number of inspections carried out by Mr. Hine and Mr. Panks, has been supplied by Mr. Hine:-

Number of Visits Public Health and Housing Acts	..	..	..	745
Housing Act, 1949. (Grant-aided Improvements)	..	..	..	307
Tents, Vans and Sheds	..	..	..	25
Factories	..	..	..	43
Shops & Food Premises	..	..	..	125
Dairies	..	..	..	3
Water Samples - Bacteriological	..	..	..	74
- Chemical	..	..	..	1
Re existing mains	..	..	..	38
New water scheme	..	..	..	1,147
Private Water Supplies	..	..	..	20
Refuse Collection	..	..	..	125
Nightsoil	..	..	..	62
After Infectious Disease	..	..	..	3
Disinfestation	..	..	..	6
Bakehouses	..	..	..	15
Slaughterhouses and meat inspections, Butchers Shops	..	..	..	126
Schools	..	..	..	5
Public Houses	..	..	..	24
Housing Sites	..	..	..	77
New Buildings	..	..	..	90
Bye-law & Planning, etc.	..	..	..	175
Alterations to existing buildings	..	..	..	115
Requisitioned property	..	..	..	2
New drainage & closet conversions	..	..	..	351
Sewers	..	..	..	61
Sewage disposal works	..	..	..	152
Petroleum	..	..	..	8
Explosives	..	..	..	6
Housing Management	..	..	..	453
Informal Notices Outstanding 1st January, 1955.	..	..	23	
" " Served During 1955	..	..	81	
" " Complied with During 1955	..	..	86	
" " Outstanding 31st December, 1955.	..	..	18	
Statutory Notices Outstanding 1st January, 1955	..	..	18	
" " Served during 1955	..	..	19	
" " Complied with During 1955	..	..	28	
" " Outstanding 31st December, 1955..	..	..	9	

FACTORY ACT, 1947. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	8	8	2	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	30	32	3	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority, (excluding out-workers' premises).	3	3	Nil	Nil
	41	43	5	Nil

* i.e. Electrical Stations (Sections 103 (1)), Institutions, (Section 104) and Sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Reported.		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness (3.1)	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences(S.7)					
Unsuitable or Defective	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil

There were no Out-Workers in the district during 1955.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES. The availability of a piped water supply in every parish of the Rural District and public sewers in the parishes of Bildeston, Boxford and Lavenham has made possible a steady improvement to the sanitary arrangements at shops and offices. As already recorded, premises, other than houses, on the route of the sewers have been connected, 14 of 15 in Bildeston, 11 of 15 in Boxford and 19 of 24 in Lavenham.

(v) CAMPING SITES. There is no regular camping site within the Rural District. There are very few moveable dwellings situated in the District. At the end of 1955 only 10 licences to occupy moveable dwellings were in force. The moveable dwellings comprised 2 sheds, 1 converted van, 1 converted 'bus and the remainder were reasonably well equipped caravans.

At the beginning of the year there was an encampment of 5 families on a site at Boxford, approved by the Council and the Town and Country Planning Authority. By the end of the year only 2 families remained on the site.

In all cases where the Council authorise the issue of a caravan licence the following conditions are attached:-

- That a supply of wholesome water sufficient for the occupiers of the caravan be provided within a reasonable distance thereof.
- That adequate sanitary and drainage arrangements be provided to the satisfaction of the Council's Surveyor.
- That a suitable receptacle for house refuse be provided.
- That the site be kept in a clean and tidy condition and no other unauthorised buildings be erected thereon.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT. There were no cases of nuisance from excessive smoke in the Rural District.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS. There are no swimming baths in the District.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. No bed bug infestation was reported or discovered during the year. 3 cases of flea infestation were reported in non-council houses. These were effectively dealt with by the Council Officials using Messrs. Cooper, McDougal & Robertson's Multispray.

(ix) RODENT CONTROL. The Council employ the services of a full-time rodent operator, Mr. R.W. Fenning, working under the supervision of the Surveyor. The District is systematically inspected and treatments given for the eradication of rodent infestations. Refuse tips and sewers are kept under constant supervision. The following is a summary of the Rodent Operator's work:-

	(1) Local Auth- ority	(2) Dwelling Houses Council Houses.	(3) All Other	(4) Total 1, 2 & 3	(5) Agri- cultural.
Number of properties in Cosford	26	2,961	192	3,179	301
Properties Inspected as result of:-					
(a) Notification	-	64	3	67	11
(b) Survey under the Act	2	2,696	148	2,846	86
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited for other purposes)	24	201	41	266	4
Total inspections carried out including re-inspections.	The survey of the District has been carried out almost twice during the year. Refuse tips, etc. have been visited much more frequently.				
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats - Major	2	3	-	5	16
Minor	1	523	6	530	9
(b) Mice - Major	-	-	-	-	1
Minor	-	21	-	21	-
Infested Properties treated by L.A.	3	533	6	542	20
Total treatments & re-treatments.	6	556	7	569	22
"Block" control schemes carried out.	-	2	-	-	-

(x) THE RAG, FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951. There are no premises in the District which require registration or licensing under the above Act. The premises in the District which carry out upholstery work only carry out repair, re-making and reconditioning of articles and are, therefore, exempt from registration under Section 1(2)(a) of the Act which is required for manufacture of new goods.

(xi) SCHOOLS. There are 12 village schools in use in the Rural District. Every school has a wholesome and plentiful supply of water from the Council's mains.

The sanitary accommodation at Lavenham and Bildeston Schools have been converted to W.C.'s. and connected to the Council's sewer. The County Council have in train similar conversion at Boxford School where the Cosford R.D.C. have provided a sewer connection ready for this work.

(xii) PUBLIC HOUSES. The licensed premises in the District are kept in a good state of cleanliness by the several licensees.

The Brewery Companies are co-operating by improving the sanitary arrangements and amenities of their houses as quickly as they can, although this work is suffering from the restriction of capital expenditure.

At one premise in Boxford the sanitation is extremely bad and pressure has been brought to bear on the Brewery Company concerned to improve matters. The Company do not wish to connect the existing earth closets to water closets but to carry out an extensive scheme of replanning to give more satisfactory facilities for the tenant and the public. It is hoped that the improvements to this house will soon be commenced.

During the year a new licensed house was constructed at Lavenham and the old house from which the licence was transferred, has been demolished.

Extensive schemes of reconditioning at The Swan Inn, Monks Eleigh, and the Cock Inn, Polstead, was completed during 1955.

Only one licensed house, where mains water is available, has not yet taken advantage of a mains supply. The well water at present used has been the subject of a bacteriological test which showed at that time that the water was not unsatisfactory for domestic use.

SECTION D.
HOUSING.

1. (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	711
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	745
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	43
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	49
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	72
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	245
2. <u>Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.</u>	
Number of defective dwellinghouses at which improvements or repairs have been carried out in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	36
3. <u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</u> <u>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:-	
(a) By Owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
<u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. Section 93	2
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices. 44	20
(a) By Owners	14
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
<u>Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which	
(a) Demolition Orders were made	6
(b) Undertakings accepted not to re-let for human habitation	8
(c) Undertakings accepted to carry out specified works of repair	5
(d) Undertakings cancelled after completion of specified works of repair	5
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in persuance of Demolition Orders	5
<u>Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses closed in persuance of Closing Orders.	1
<u>Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
Number of dwellinghouses the subject of an "Official Representation" and declared by the Council to be a Clearance Area.	Nil
Number of dwellinghouses comprising a Clearance Area and subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order confirmed by the Minister.	9

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 1
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 1
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 6
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 3
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 3
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 13
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority having taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. Nil

The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population in 1955 was 9,470 persons - the number of inhabited houses at the end of the year according to the Rate Book was 3,364 - an average of 2.8 persons per house throughout the District.

The Council's 1955 contribution to the housing needs of the District, in addition to the general repair and maintenance of existing houses, is indicated by the following summary, ((a) to (e)) :-

(a) During 1955 there were 29 Council houses built in the District and 18 Private Dwelling Houses. This is indicated in the following table which shows the post-war building:-

COUNCIL HOUSES BUILT IN PARISH															% of Houses in Parish which are Council Houses.
Total all Houses.	Total	Total Pre- War & Emer- gency War.	Total Post- War.	DURING											
				1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946		
Aldham. 54	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11%	
Brent Eleigh. 59	12	10	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	20%	
Brettenham. 103	8	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	8%	
Bildeston. 246	89	23	66	10	10	14	6	8	10	1	1	8	1	36%	
Boxford. 277	63	19	44	1	2	10	8	8	1	1	8	8	1	23%	
Cockfield. 241	50	28	22	1	6	1	1	1	8	1	8	1	1	21%	
Chelsworth. 56	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4%	
Edwardstone. 119	24	12	12	1	1	1	4	1	4	1	1	4	1	20%	
Elmsett. 115	28	10	18	4	1	1	4	1	1	1	4	6	1	24%	
Groton. 77	12	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16%	
Hitcham. 217	29	11	18	1	1	1	1	1	1	18	1	1	1	13%	
Kersey. 156	18	4	14	4	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	6	1	12%	
Kettlebaston. 29	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Lavenham. 582	92	30	62	4	1	1	1	1	16	22	6	14	1	17%	
Layham. 132	18	2	16	4	1	4	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	14%	
Lindsey. 67	6	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	9%	
Mildon. 50	6	2	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12%	
Monks Eleigh 156	14	6	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	1	9%	
Nedging with 101	14	14	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14%	
Naughton.															
Polstead. 197	30	10	20	1	4	1	3	1	1	6	6	1	1	15%	
Preston. 77	6	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	8%	
Semer. 56	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Thorpe Morieux 95	14	6	8	4	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	15%	
Wattisham. 90	35	19	16	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	1	1	39%	
Wattisham. 42	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5%	
3,364	578	236	342	29	35	28	33	17	46	52	40	62	1	17%	

Private houses built post-war 110 18 13 18 15 8 8 10 7 10 3

≡ 30 of these were prefabricated houses erected
8 at Bildeston, 8 at Boxford and 14 at Lavenham.

(b) Improvement Grants. Since the coming into operation of the Housing Act, 1949, until the end of 1955 the Council have authorised Improvement Grants amounting to £18,301 in respect of 89 dwellings - the 1955 portion of this amount being £7,976 in respect of 42 dwellings.

It is apparent that farmers recognise they cannot obtain the services of an expert agricultural worker unless they can offer a first class cottage with modern conveniences.

The 42 dwellings, the subject of the 1955 grants, were occupied 26 by persons employed in agriculture (21 tenants and 5 owner-occupiers) and 16 by persons not employed in agriculture (9 tenants and 7 owner-occupiers).

Improvement Grants are a positive help in the slum-clearance campaign, especially in rural areas where the usual problem is not that of the congested clearance area but rather the individual unfit house. Imaginative re-planning when allied to an Improvement Grant often saves a cottage from demolition by adding, to the charming exterior, a comfortable and healthy interior.

Not only have the Council encouraged owners to take up Improvement Grants, but the Council is also proceeding with the re-conditioning of a terrace of seventeenth century houses in Water Street, Lavenham, to a scheme approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for financial assistance under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949.

In one case, in the parish of Groton, in addition to an Improvement Grant, a loan was advanced to cover the applicant's share of the cost of improvement works and repairs.

(c) Subsidies. No suitable case arose during 1955 for subsidy under the Housing Financial Provisions Act, 1938.

(d) Loans. The Council approved loans under the provisions of the Small Dwellings Acquisitions Acts to enable persons to purchase or construct houses for their own occupation (2 cases at Boxford, 1 at Bildeston and 1 at Whatfield).

(e) Sale of Council Houses. One pre-war Council house at Whatfield was sold to the tenant. The Council have approved a loan in this case and have also authorised the payment of an improvement grant. The tenant has, therefore, become owner/occupier free from any further rent increases that in future might arise and have to be borne by the tenants of Council houses - he has also improved his house by the addition of a bathroom and W.C. (improvements that the Council are precluded from carrying out themselves until the restriction in capital expenditure is relaxed).

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. Almost all the milk sold in the District is either pasteurised or T.T. pasteurised. The principal dairy is situated at "Greenbank", Boxford. A very good standard of cleanliness with careful pasteurisation and cold storage prior to distribution is maintained at all times. The milk is also supplied to consumers within parts of the Rural Districts of Melford, Samford and Gipping and the Urban Areas of Hadleigh and Sudbury. The results of the bacteriological analysis of samples of the milk have been satisfactory throughout the year.

Supplementary Licences are in force authorising the sale of designated milk in this district by the Bury St. Edmunds Co-operative Society, Ipswich and Stowmarket Co-operative Societies, Mr. Fulcher of Bury St. Edmunds and Mr. Dennison of Hadleigh.

Supervision of milk producers is now carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. Licences to slaughter animals for food were in force for two premises in Bildeston, one at Cockfield and one at Boxford. The premises at Cockfield are used solely for the slaughter of pigs and one premise at Bildeston has not been used during 1955. The remaining premises at Bildeston and the one at Boxford are used more frequently, but by far the greater part of the meat eaten in the District is slaughtered elsewhere and bought wholesale by the majority of the twelve butchers. The difficulty and expense of obtaining the services of a slaughterman makes it uneconomic for the smaller butchers to employ them to slaughter their own animals.

The premises used are maintained in a clean condition and the butchers co-operate in making carcase and offal readily available for inspection.

The twelve butchers shops in the district are well run and all the staff employed appear conscious of the need for exercising strict care and attention to food hygiene. A gradual improvement in the fittings and equipment of the shops can be observed. The housewife is demanding higher standards when buying foodstuffs and this appears to be causing a gradual improvement in standards of handling and presentation of food for sale.

The same remarks apply to the other types of shops in the District.

All the shops on the route of water mains or sewers have taken advantage of the facilities available. In remote areas where mains water is available but not sewer, the proprietors are encouraged to put in drainage systems to cesspools or settlement tanks. Most shop keepers where electricity is available, have installed electric geysers to provide constant hot water over the sink.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered and inspected in the District during the year:-

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses.
Number killed	187	Nil	47	71	35	Nil
Number inspected	187	Nil	47	71	35	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	1%	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.8%	Nil
<u>Cystercercosis.</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(c) ADULTERATION, ETC.

(d) CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

(e) NUTRITION.

(f) SHELL-FISH.

(g) WATER-CRESS.

No change.

OTHER FOODSTUFFS. 31 tins of Batchelor's Butter Beans were surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

ICE-CREAM. There are no premises licenced for the manufacture of ice-cream in the Rural District. 21 retailers are registered for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream. No ice-cream is sold from shops within the District other than that which has been pre-packed.

SECTION F.
PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of Infectious Diseases among the civilian population during the year. These are the final numbers after corrections subsequently made either by the Notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Disease Hospital.

				Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Puerperal Pyrexia.
Grand Total: M. F.											
236 130 106											
Totals:				M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	F.
				13 12	18 23	80 63	8 2	4 3	3 2	4 -	/
Age	0 to under	1		- -	4 1	- 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	-
	1 "	"	3	- -	3 4	15 10	- -	- -	- -	- -	-
	3 "	"	5	2 3	4 3	13 13	- -	- -	- -	- -	-
	5 "	"	10	8 6	6 14	44 32	- -	- -	- 1	- -	-
	10 "	"	15	- 1	- 1	5 2	- -	- 1	- -	- -	-
	15 "	"	25	2 1	- -	1 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	1
	25 "	"	45	- -	1 -	1 2	- 1	- -	1 1	2 -	-
	45 "	"	65	1 1	- -	1 -	5 -	3 2	2 -	2 -	-
	65 & over.			- -	- -	- -	3 1	1 -	- -	- -	-

In the past 12 years only one case of Diphtheria has occurred in Cosford.

During 1955 the incidence of Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough was average, that of Measles (143) was slightly above the average (110 for the past 15 years) following a very light occurrence of only 6 cases in 1954.

The 5 cases of Food Poisoning were all part of a single outbreak originating from Ipswich through meat pies, the organism concerned being coagulase positive Staphylococcus Aureus. These cases occurred in the third quarter of the year, symptoms of diarrhoeas and vomiting, weakness and perspiration occurring $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 hours after ingestion and lasting about 3 hours - all recovered.

There was no undue incidence of any other infectious disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES.

New Cases and Mortality.

	1955.	1954.	1953.	1952.	1951.	1950.
Pulmonary	4	5	5	6	6	6
Non-Pulmonary	Nil	3	4	3	1	2

Ages of Cases notified in 1955:-

Pulmonary, Males 38, 44, 53 & 59 years.

MORTALITY. There were no Tuberculosis deaths during 1955.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1. Cases at commencement 1955.	20	16	6	9	26	25
2. Notified first in 1955.	4	-	-	-	4	-
3. Restored to Register.	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Added by Transfers.	1	1	-	-	1	1
5. Cases removed from Register.	5	3	3	1	8	4
6. Remaining at end of 1955.	20	14	3	8	23	22

COSFORD - 1936 to 1955. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

	Diph- theria	Scarlet Fever.	Measles	Whoop- ing Cough.	Erysip- elas.	Infective Hepatitis	Acute Polio- myel- itis.	Food Poison- ing.	Meningo- coccal Mening- itis.	Ophthal- mia Neonat- oram.	Para-Typhoid Fevers.	Puer- peral Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Total Cases.
1936.	4	24	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	31
1937.	3	17	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	10	32
1938.	3	40	-	-	10	-	7	-	-	1	-	-	7	68
1939.	7	8	Nil	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	13	36
1940.	7	9	119	6	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	154
1941.	11	19	284	102	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	2	Nil	3	2	429
1942.	1	5	10	5	8	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	3	2	35
1943.	2	24	98	3	3	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	1	134
1944.	Nil	13	33	54	10	59	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	3	9	182
1945.	Nil	6	56	49	8	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	3	4	140
1946.	Nil	7	117	30	13	9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	9	186
1947.	Nil	4	180	4	7	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5	1	4	221
1948.	1	Nil	42	101	14	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	Nil	2	1	6	170
1949.	Nil	7	41	34	12	3	1	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	26	132
1950.	Nil	13	211	116	14	9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	12	275
1951.	Nil	3	155	58	10	9	2	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	2	41	282
1952.	Nil	4	124	56	8	4	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	9	208
1953.	Nil	23	174	51	6	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	13	270
1954.	Nil	22	6	71	4	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	17	126
1955.	Nil	25	143	41	7	Nil	Nil	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	10	232

